

The external and internal barbs are also much modified in shape and generally curtailed in size. Fig. *b* gives an upper view of the sixth, and fig. *c* an under view of the seventh secondary. The corresponding feathers of the female, representing the normal structure, are seen in fig. *b'* and fig. *c'*. In the eighth and ninth secondaries the *rachis* is still rather thickened; but the barbs (*pogonia*), instead of being reduced in size, are highly developed, particularly on the inner side. Mr. Fraser states that the wing-bones of these birds were also much thickened, no doubt in aid of this abnormal structure of the *remiges*."

XXI.—Recent Ornithological Publications.

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

WE have already noticed at some length von Schrenck's important work on the Fauna of Amoorland*. It will not therefore be necessary to say much concerning Mr. Ravenstein's 'Russians on the Amoor†,' the chapter in Mr. Ravenstein's volume devoted to the natural history of this region having been based upon v. Schrenck's discoveries. But we take this opportunity of cordially recommending Mr. Ravenstein's work to those who are desirous of knowing what has been done by Russia and is now going on in this part of the world. They will be pleased to find in Mr. Ravenstein's *résumé* a succinct account of the history, geography, ethnology, climate, and natural productions of this little-known region, and may save themselves the necessity of hunting for the requisite information on these subjects in the in many cases inaccessible original authorities published in Russia.

Mr. Boner's recent unpretending little work‡ contains some few interesting particulars of the habits of the Capercaillie (*Tetrao*

* Ibis, 1861, p. 203.

† The Russians on the Amoor; its discovery, conquest, and colonization. By E. G. Ravenstein, F.R.G.S. London: Trübner & Co. 1861, 1 vol. 8vo.

‡ Forest Creatures. By Charles Boner, &c. London, 1861 (1 vol. 12mo, pp. 245).

urogallus), Black-Cock (*T. tetrix*), and Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaëtus*), as observed by the author in Southern Germany. The custom of shooting the males of the two first-mentioned species just prior to the breeding-time is not confined to Scandinavia. Of the last Mr. Boner says (p. 162), "that it has frequently been seen soaring above the summit of the Wetterhorn and the Eiger Mountains, whose heights are 11,412 feet and 12,240 feet respectively." The extraordinary bird's-nesting feat of the amateur acrobat, Count Arco, which found its way into the newspapers last summer, is fully recounted. Mr. Boner's criticisms (pp. 176-8) on the knowledge of Eagles possessed by Sir Humphry Davy and Professor Wilson are not, we think, altogether to the purpose. The bird spoken of by the author of 'Salmonia,' which "dashes into the water, falling like a rock, and raising a column of spray," was of course an Osprey (*Pandion haliaëtus*), and the action was no unwonted sight to that accomplished fisherman. Further, we suspect that in former days in Scotland it *was* "the commoner occurrence for there to be *several* eaglets in a nest," as is to be inferred from 'Christopher North's' expressions. We know of many instances in which *two* have been so found; indeed a case is recorded in our last volume ('Ibis,' 1860, p. 112); and, if we are not misinformed, Mr. Wolley on one occasion discovered *three fertile* eggs in a Golden Eagle's nest. Mr. Boner has great cause to complain of his engraver, who has contrived to mar the skill of the artist by his exceedingly coarse work. The tournament between the two Black-Cocks is well conceived, and the absurd attitude of the Capercaillie uttering his love-song—which we have here seen depicted for the first time—is very good, though in both illustrations the birds are mounted on legs suggestive of stronger *Columbine* affinities than most ornithologists accord to the *Tetraonidæ*.

In the 'Natural-History Review' for January 1862 (pp. 26-52), Mr. Lubbock has given an account of the archæontological researches recently carried on in Switzerland, which is as full of interest, if not of novelty, to the English public as his former paper, noticed in our last Number ('Ibis,' 1862, p. 76). The

“pile-buildings” or “lake habitations” of the ancient inhabitants of Helvetia have been described by several authors—by MM. Morlot, Trogon, and Keller among others. The animal remains found among their ruins have been investigated by Professor Rüttimeyer in two works, of which the last published, ‘Die Fauna der Pfahlbauten in der Schweiz,’ contains all that we at present know on the subject. Bones of no less than eighteen species of birds have been recovered from these monuments which the early European races unconsciously heaped up to their own memory. The species, according to Mr. Lubbock, are the following :—

<i>Aquila fulva.</i>	<i>Tetrao bonasia.</i>
—— <i>haliaëtus</i> (?).	<i>Ardea cinerea.</i>
<i>Falco milvus.</i>	<i>Ciconia alba.</i>
—— <i>palumbarius.</i>	<i>Fulica atra.</i>
—— <i>nisus.</i>	<i>Larus</i> (<i>sp. indet.</i>).
<i>Strix aluco.</i>	<i>Cygnus musicus.</i>
<i>Sturnus vulgaris.</i>	<i>Anser segetum.</i>
<i>Cinclus aquaticus.</i>	<i>Anas boschas.</i>
<i>Columba palumbus.</i>	—— <i>querquedula</i> (?).

None of these indicate, as in the case of those met with in the Danish “Kitchen-Middens,” any remarkable changes in the physical aspect of the country. They were all from old settlements of the most ancient or “Stone” period; but the discovery of a single bone at a station of the “Bronze” age, and attributed by M. Rüttimeyer to the Barn-door Fowl (*Gallus domesticus*), is more suggestive to antiquarians.

Dr. Bree continues his laudable efforts to make English ornithologists take a greater interest in the ‘Birds of Europe not observed in the British Isles,’ the forty-third part of his work having made its appearance on the 1st of March last. While we heartily congratulate the author on the general results of his labours; we must confess we cannot view with approbation his repeated attacks upon the Darwinian theory of the origin of species. Of course every one has a right to his own opinions on a question so fraught with difficulties, and we are not now expressing any decided sentiments respecting it. But more than a year ago,

Dr. Bree published a volume* especially designed to refute the mischievous tendencies of Mr. Darwin's hypothesis; and as hitherto the learned author of the celebrated treatise 'On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection' has not thought fit to reply to Dr. Bree's objections, we should have imagined the latter gentleman might have contented himself, if he has any faith in his own views, with the supposition that they were *unanswerable*, and accordingly have refrained from further notice of the subject. On the contrary, of Dr. Bree, as of Alexander, it may be said that "thrice he slew the slain," for at least as many times quite recently has he taken occasion to celebrate the triumph of his teleological arguments over those adduced by his enemy.

We cannot recognize the validity of the reasons Dr. Bree urges for not giving due place to *Turtur rupicola* (Pall.) = *Columba gelastes*, Temm., and for omitting a figure of that species, as, in spite of Dr. v. Schrenck's opinion, we must advisedly call it. The British Museum contains several specimens of this Dove, and it seems to us to deserve recognition fully as much as *Hirundo cahirica*.

2. RUSSIAN AND SCANDINAVIAN PUBLICATIONS.

The fourth number of the 'Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou,' for 1860 (vol. xxxiii. p. 488), contains a paper by M. J. Schatilloff on the birds he has collected in Tauria†. M. Schatilloff's station of observation is at Schatillofka, a village situated at the embouchure of the Karam into the Putrid Sea. He began collecting in 1854 in company with M. H. G. Radde, the well-known naturalist of the Russian Scientific Expedition to Amoorland. To the 185 species enumerated by the latter gentleman in his 'Beiträgen zu der Ornithologie Süd-Russlands,' M. Schatilloff has been enabled to add 33 others, and in his catalogue altogether enumerates 228 species. As M. Schatilloff himself admits, this cannot be considered a complete

* Species not Transmutable, nor the Result of Secondary Causes, &c. By C. R. Bree, M.D., F.L.S. London, 1860.

† Katalog meines ornithologischen Museums der Vögel Tauriens. Von J. Schatilloff.

list of the birds of the Chersonese, as other species have been recorded by competent authorities who have written on the fauna of this region. Nevertheless M. Schatiloff's paper may be consulted with advantage, being good as far as it goes.

The only contribution to ornithology we have to record from Denmark is the paper on the structure and affinities of *Balæniceps* by Professor Reinhardt, of which we give a translation in our present Number. This question seems likely to become a *cause célèbre* in ornithological controversy. Might we be allowed to suggest that the distinctions between the *Ciconinæ* and *Ardeinæ* require more precise definition than has as yet been laid down? We think that this step is necessary before the discussion is carried further.

The ninth part of Professor Sundevall's 'Svenska Foglarna' has been published. This work, to which we have already several times alluded, will no doubt be found as useful to his countrymen as it is instructive to foreigners. The author is a particularly safe guide, and though we may not entirely agree with his somewhat peculiar ideas on systematic arrangement, all his writings deserve the best attention of ornithologists.

Herr Conservator F. W. Meves, who a few years ago so luckily stumbled on the true explanation of the bleating noise made by the Common Snipe (*Gallinago scolopacinus*) in the breeding season (P. Z. S. 1858, p. 199), has communicated two papers to the Summary of the Transactions of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Stockholm for 1860 (Öfversigt af Kongl. Vetenskaps-Akademiens Förhandlingar, 17de årgången).

The first is a "Contribution to the Ornithology of Jemtland," being an account of his travels in that province of Sweden, we suppose in the year 1859. He mentions (p. 202) that, on the 12th of February, a Thrush was obtained at Haga, out of a flock of Fieldfares and Redwings, which in colour and size is midway between those two species, resembling the former above, and the latter beneath. But in the last respect it also agrees with the mysterious *Turdus illuminus* of Löbenstein (Naum. Vög. Deutschl.

xiii. p. 286, pl. 356; 'Naumannia,' 1851, iv. p. 3, and 1852, iii. p. 67, cum fig.). Can it be a hybrid between *T. pilaris* and *T. iliacus*? The type-specimen of the so-called *T. illuminus* appears to have been killed some twenty years ago in Lusatia (Saxony), and was preserved in Baron von Löbenstein's collection at Lohsa (Tobias, 'Abhandl. Naturf. Gesellsch. zu Görlitz,' iv. i. p. 32). The remaining portion of Herr Meves' first paper, though containing valuable information, does not seem to call for further notice here.

The second communication made to the same volume by this industrious observer is not a little singular. It is "On the Red Colouring in *Gypaëtus*" (p. 487), a subject which has already attracted attention in this Journal ('Ibis,' 1859, pp. 85 & 177). By a simple chemical test, he ascertained that the red colouring is due to a superficial deposit of *oxide of iron* on the feathers, and he says that the colouring-matter on the eggs also arises from the same cause. He suggests that this stain is owing to the birds bathing in water containing iron in solution, but judiciously remarks that this point must be investigated in the birds' own homes. During his journey in Jemtland, noticed above, Herr Meves had observed the same peculiarity in some of the feathers of the Crane (*Grus cinerea*), which he then found to be caused by the presence of iron. We hope some of our readers may try an experiment with the feathers of Swans, which, especially in the wild species (*Cygnus ferus* and *C. minor*), are so often tinged with rufous.

3. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

We have lately received the latter part of vol. vii., and the commencement of vol. viii., of the 'Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History,' which have been kindly transmitted to this Journal. They contain several articles on ornithology. Dr. Henry Bryant (p. 226) attempts to show that Sclater's identification of two birds from Bogota (*Turdus swainsonii* and *Vireo olivaceus*) with North-American species is erroneous. To the former he proposes to restore the name *Turdus minimus*, given to it by M. de Lafresnaye; for the latter he makes a new name, *Vireo bogotensis*.

Dr. Brewer (p. 305) gives a nominal catalogue of the Birds of Cuba, compiled from two lists furnished to him by Dr. John Gundlach of Havanna. He enumerates 251 species. Dr. Brewer also communicates (p. 308) a paper by Mr. F. Germain of Santiago, entitled "Notes upon the Mode and Place of Nidification of some of the Birds of Chili." Mr. Germain's notes relate to 69 species, the eggs of which were all collected by himself, and his specimens may therefore be depended upon as authentic. We should very much like to have further information concerning the nidification of *Pteroptochus albicollis* and of the other species of the same group found in Chili. It would be interesting to know whether they confirm the unmistakeable relationship which exists between these birds and *Memura*. The same volume contains also two notices by Dr. Henry Bryant (pp. 349, 367) on the nidification of some species of Sea-birds.

Two other contributions of Dr. H. Bryant to the same Journal have reached us only in the form of separate copies, for which we have to thank Professor Baird. Dr. Bryant's "Remarks on the Variation of Plumage of *Buteo borealis* and *B. harlani*" are of great importance, and we give an extract from his paper which clearly shows the conclusion he has arrived at:—

"On carefully examining a large series of specimens, principally in the collections of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington, and of the Academy of Natural Sciences at Philadelphia, I find that all of them, belonging to *harlani*?, *insignatus*, *swainsonii*, *bairdii*, *oxypterus*, *borealis*, *montanus*, *calurus*, and perhaps *cooperi*, can be easily reduced to two very distinct groups, each of which is distinguishable by definite external characters, and in which the variations of plumage, though apparently so great if the extremes only are taken into consideration, can, it seems to me, be arranged in a series, in which the connexion of the different members may be readily traced. Of these two groups, or rather species, one, which should be called *B. borealis*, as the first-described, consists of that species, *montanus*, *calurus*, *harlani*?, and probably *cooperi*, and is characterized by a very muscular body, stronger and larger bill, longer and more powerful tarsi, and a more rounded wing, the fourth quill generally the

longest, the fifth little, if any, shorter than the third, and the first always shorter than the eighth. The other species, to which *harlani*?, *insignatus*, *swainsonii*, *bairdii*, and *oxypterus* belong, is distinguished by a more slender body, shorter and weaker tarsi, and a more pointed wing, the third quill generally the longest, the fifth considerably shorter than the third, and the first always longer than the eighth. It is a matter of some doubt what name should be assigned to this species. I have seen specimens which agree very exactly with Audubon's plate of *B. harlani*; and if they are really specimens of his bird, that name would have priority. Though his type-specimen in the British Museum is said by some of the English ornithologists to belong to the other species, I am inclined to doubt this, as there is a specimen of *B. fuliginosus* in the collection of the Academy marked *B. harlani* by Audubon himself, and it is almost impossible for him to have mistaken this bird for a Red-tailed Hawk. I shall therefore at present consider this species to be *B. harlani*. If the type in the British Museum should prove to be a different bird, *swainsonii*, as next in date, would take its place."

Dr. Bryant's "Monograph of the genus *Catarractes*" is also a valuable contribution to our knowledge of the ornithology of North America. But we strongly protest against the change of nomenclature, which Dr. Bryant is "sorry to propose" in this case, and which we should be still more sorry to accept. It is not our intention on the present occasion to enter anew into the oft-vexed question of the "law of priority," and how far it is to be carried back. We are content to refer Dr. Bryant to the admirable remarks on this subject made by the late Hugh Strickland in his various critiques upon Mr. G. R. Gray's 'List of the Genera of Birds*,' and, in accordance with his views, to remark, that if we once go back beyond Linnæus's perfected edition of the 'Systema Naturæ' (the 12th), we may be gradually induced to recognize the nomenclature of Ray, of Pliny, of Aristotle, and possibly even the names which some Biblical commentator may fancy were given by Adam to the beasts and birds in Paradise. We must, therefore, respectfully decline to aid Dr.

* See Ann. Nat. Hist. vols. vi. p. 410, vii. p. 26 (1841).

Bryant in endeavouring to resuscitate Mœrhing's long-forgotten term *Catarractes*, and shall continue to use *Uria* for this well-known group of *Alcidæ*, of which Dr. Bryant recognizes four species, namely—1. *troille* (Linn.); 2. *ringvia* (Brünnich); 3. *lomvia* (*brünnichii*, Sabine); 4. *californica*, Bryant.

The first three occur on the Atlantic coasts of Europe and North America; the last is the representative of *U. troille* on the Pacific, and may be considered as a climatal variety of that species.

A part of the 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York' (vol. vii., Nos. 10-12), lately issued, contains three articles by Mr. George N. Lawrence relating to ornithology. Of two of these we have already said a few words*. The third is a second list of birds collected by Mr. McLeannan on the Panama Railway route during the winter of 1860-61, "with the assistance of Mr. John R. Galbraith, an intelligent and skilful young taxidermist," of New York. Nearly 300 specimens were obtained by these active collectors, comprising additional examples of nearly all the 142 species enumerated in the former catalogue, and of about 150 additional species. Several of the latter are described as new. Mr. Lawrence has materials accumulating for a third list of birds from this interesting locality, among which are the new species described in our last Number, and other rarities. We cordially wish Mr. Lawrence success in working out the ornithology of this interesting region. The forms require accurate comparison with those of Guatemala and New Granada, and will prove in many cases, as we can testify from inspection of those of them submitted to us by Mr. Lawrence, to be intermediate in characters as in locality.

In the recently published 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia,' pp. 145-384, for 1861, we notice, besides the two papers of Mr. Coues spoken of in our last Number, the following articles relating to birds:—

(1.) Description of a new *Pitta*, by Mr. Elliot (*Pitta leucoptera*), from Ceylon (?). We doubt Ceylon being the true

* See 'Ibis,' 1861, p. 406.

habitat of this *Pitta*, which was obtained from M. Parzudaki of Paris, and we are almost inclined to doubt the "white wings" being anything more than a character of immaturity.

(2.) Description of a new North-American Grouse, by Dr. Suckley—*Pediæcetes kennicottii*—a northern form of the Sharp-tailed Grouse (*P. phasianellus*), from Fort Rae and Voig Island in Arctic America near Great Slave Lake.

(3.) A monograph of the genus *Ægiothus*, by Mr. Coues (p. 373). Mr. Coues has worked diligently at the series of Redpolls in the collection of the Smithsonian Institution, "which consists of more than one hundred specimens from very various localities in America, Europe, and Greenland, and comprises all the known species, except *Æ. rufescens* and *Æ. holbølli*." Mr. Coues has also received examples of these birds for comparison from the Museum of Copenhagen; and from these materials makes out seven species of this group, namely:—

1. *Æ. rostratus*, sp. nov., of Greenland.
2. *Æ. fuscescens*, sp. nov., of Labrador.
3. *Æ. rufescens*, of Europe.
4. *Æ. linaria*, of Europe, Asia, and North America.
5. *Æ. holbølli*, of Northern and Western Europe.
6. *Æ. exilipes*, sp. nov., of North America.
7. *Æ. canescens*, of Greenland.

We should be sorry to hazard any opinion on these new species without having inspected the type-specimens; but every one who looks at Mr. Coues's paper must admit that his conclusions are not hastily arrived at, and that his descriptions of the birds of this group have been worked out with care and precision.

The 'Proceedings of the Californian Academy of Sciences' * for 1861 contain a paper by Dr. J. G. Cooper, wherein are described two new Californian birds—an Owl, allied to *Glaucidium gnoma* (of Baird's N. A. Birds = *Glaucidium californicum*, Sclater), which he proposes to call *Athene whitneyi*, and a Wood-warbler, of the genus *Helminthophaga* (*H. lucia*). Both these birds were obtained in the Colorado Valley, where the latter is said to be

* Proceedings of the Californian Academy of Sciences, 1858-61, vol. ii. p. 124.

“common.” A list of rare birds, specimens of which, as of these supposed new ones, were collected during the State Geological Survey in this locality, is added.

We have long lamented not being able to obtain any satisfactory information relative to the exact localities whence the bird-skins sent to Europe in such large numbers from Bogota are procured. An article by M. de Geoffrey, Secretary of the French Legation to the New-Granadian capital, lately published in the second volume of Dr. Uricoechea's ‘*Contribuciones de Columbia á las Ciencias e á las Artes,*’ gives some interesting details concerning the Humming-birds of the district of Bogota*, and we trust that M. de Geoffrey will extend his researches into the other branches of the rich ornithology of that district.

The number of Humming-birds known in the environs of Bogota, M. de Geoffrey tells us, is 64. “*Nous disons les environs de Bogota,*” continues M. de Geoffrey, “*car ce n’est guère, à proprement parler, qu’un rayon d’une trentaine de lieues autour de cette capitale qui a été exploité avec quelque soin par les amateurs de cette branche de l’ornithologie, et sous leur direction par les Indiens, chasseurs d’oiseaux.*” The localities whence the Indians bring Humming-birds’ skins are, as M. de Geoffrey goes on to inform us, principally Choachi, and the route of the Llanos as far as Villavicencio; then Anolaima, La Mesa, Viotá, Fuzagazugá, Muzo, and La Palma. M. de Geoffrey, after a general sketch of the altitudes at which the different generic forms of the Humming-birds are usually found, gives a list of the 64 species, arranged according to Prince Bonaparte’s catalogue (Rev. Zool. 1854, p. 248), with details concerning the habits and resorts of each of them. This paper should be consulted by all those who are interested in Humming-birds, and we beg leave particularly to recommend the author to the notice of Mr. Gould.

* “*Note sur les Trochilidées de la Nouvelle Granade.*” Contr. de Col. á l. Cienc. e Art, vol. ii. p. 3 (London, Trübner & Co.).